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Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Support local stores on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

The Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce is encouraging residents to support a local store, shop or restaurant on Nov. 28, Small Business Saturday.

CHICOPEE – Chicopee business owners are preparing for one of the most important days of their year. Small Business Saturday falls on Nov. 28, and residents have an opportunity to pay it forward by supporting local establishments.

Small Business Saturday falls annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the day after Black Friday, which is historically one of the busiest shopping days of the year. Since its establishment in 2010, Small Business Saturday shines a spotlight on a variety of local shops.

This year, Small Business Saturday carries additional significance. Local business owners have been battling the COVID-19 pandemic and falling sales, and Nov. 28 is much anticipated.

"In a year like this, it's so important for us to get out into our communities and spend our dollars locally. Small businesses are really relying on us," said Julie Copoulos, President of the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce.

Copoulos divulged that she plans to do all of her Christmas shopping in Chicopee. As co-founder of Small Oven Bakery in Easthampton, Copoulos is well aware that local business owners are working incredibly hard to keep their operations afloat.

"When you go to a smaller mom-and-pop shop, you have somebody who's invested in all the products. They're the ones calling in the inventory every week and the ones who want to make sure that you have a good experience. It's personal to them and it matters to their families that you're a happy consumer and that you're taken care of," said Copoulos.

When local businesses thrive, they contribute to the well-being of the community. Copoulos explained that the success or failure of a local business can impact more than just an owner.

"When I think about what that money goes to support, I think about supporting local families and think about mak-

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COMMUNITY

City celebrates Puerto Rican Heritage Month in ceremony

For the first time, the Puerto Rican flag now flies in front of City Hall

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Cultural Council Chairman Johnny Miranda emigrated from Puerto Rico before finding success in Chicopee. He led a celebration of Puerto Rican Heritage Month in front of City Hall on Nov. 23.

CHICOPEE – From 1948 to 1957, the Puerto Rico Gag Law made it illegal to own or display Puerto Rican flag in the United States of America. Possessing a Puerto Rican flag was punishable by a 10-year prison sentence and/or a $10,000 fine.

More than 60 years have passed since the law was repealed and the U.S. now recognizes each November as "Puerto Rican Heritage Month." A groundbreaking ceremony outside of City Hall on Nov. 23 was symbolic of the progress that has been made over the decades.

"There have been a lot of moments this year that we won't necessarily want to remember, but this is a day that we can all be really proud of. Today, in honor of Puerto Rican Heritage Month, we have the Puerto Rican flag flying high above our city for first time in Chicopee's history," said Mayor John Vieau on Monday afternoon.

Numerous local political figures with Puerto Rican roots partook in the Nov. 23 celebration. Springfield City Councilor Orlando Ramos, who will soon be sworn in as

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Vieau addresses 'tidal wave' of COVID-19 infections

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

While celebrating Puerto Rican Heritage Month on Nov. 23, Mayor John Vieau urged residents to stay home while also sharing several positive developments pertinent to a COVID-19 vaccine.

CHICOPEE – Chicopee Mayor John Vieau recognizes the growing risk that COVID-19 poses to city residents. Over the last couple weeks, he's taken advantage of public appearances to warn residents of the very real threat of COVID-19.

"It's very important that we talk about COVID-19. I'd like to have this opportunity to get that message out to you," said Vieau during his Nov. 17 Mayor's Briefing. "When you listen to the national news, I heard that in a week, there were over a million new COVID cases. That's just crazy. With the [coronavirus], they're using words like, 'exploding,' and they're calling it a, 'third wave,' or a, 'tidal wave of infection.'"

On Nov. 23, state officials reported that 1,252 Chicopee residents have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began. As of Monday, there were 424 active cases.

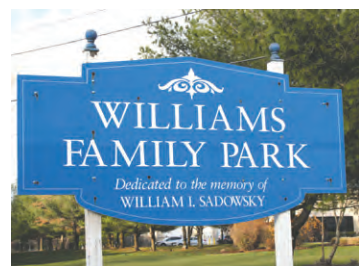
Nineteen residents have succumbed to the novel coronavirus this year and 735 have recovered, according to the Nov. 23 report.

"Here in the City of Chicopee, I can let you know that right now, we have the most cases we've ever had," said Vieau on Nov. 17.

Earlier this month, Vieau announced that the city has

See COVID page 6

Have a safe and healthy holiday



CITY

Contaminants found at Park

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ERIC CARLE

Picture book art for the family

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A Thanksgiving message from Mayor John L. Vieau

Many ask me how it feels to be Mayor at this time with the COVID-19 pandemic, economic hardship, social unrest, and political divisiveness. When I was running for office, frankly this is not what I expected.

The question reminds me of this excerpt from J.R.R. Tolkien's The Fellowship of the Ring: "I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

That is how I approach being Mayor, deciding to use the time we are given to protect the city, resolve unrest, provide economic opportunity, and work together. None of us wanted the current situation, but how we treat others and react to this time of uncertainty is what is most important.

At Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the help and sense of community we have exhibited as a city. City workers have been dedicated to providing needed services and working for the good of the residents. We have healthcare workers, putting themselves and their families at risk to keep us safe and healthy. We have seen businesses sacrificing and working to keep our economy moving.

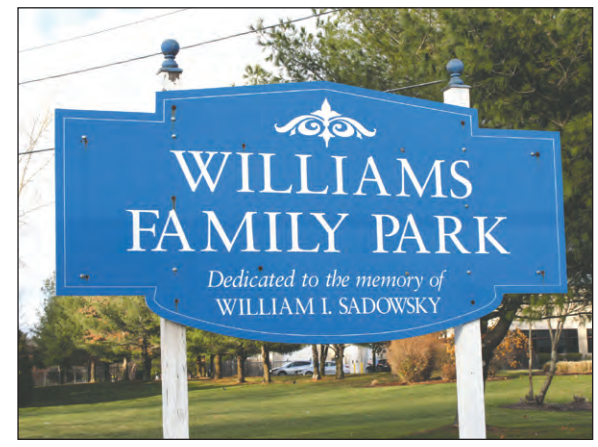
What truly makes a community great are the people who day by day work to make things better and care for each other. What I am most thankful for this Thanksgiving is the people of Chicopee who have decided at this time to come together as a community and care for each other.

I wish everyone a safe and restful Thanksgiving and promise we will be here, working to protect and grow our community on Monday.

Contaminants found in oil tank under Williams Park

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – A baseball diamond, basketball court, spray park, soccer field, playground and tennis court could all be installed soon at Williams Park on Burnett Road. But the city hit a road block recently after discovering an unexpected occupant in recent weeks: an underground oil tank that could pose an environmental risk.



The Department of Public Works detected the presence of the buried tank while drilling and sampling ahead of the installation of a water mane. On Nov. 17, City Council unanimously moved to appropriate $53,000 to the DPW Parks Special Account for Williams Park Project to determine the extent of the problem.

"It is a petroleum oil contaminant, so with this next phase, we'll hopefully be able to delineate the contamination and then move forward with how to remediate it. We didn't find a complete tank; we found remnants of a tank. It is old, riveted metal, and we're not sure [of its origin], but it was definitely used to hold fuel of some sort," said Elizabette Botelho, DPW superintendent.

Botelho confirmed that the city reported the development to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as is required by law. Mayor John Vieau detailed how the $53,000 will be spent during his official briefing prior to the council meeting.

"This is discovering what the problem is," said Vieau. "The scope of work for the $53,000 includes coordinating access to private residential properties in the area, drilling, groundwater sampling, data management, other notifications – and this is just to get the ball rolling here."

The city aims to learn more about the tank that has likely sat for decades, undetected, below Williams Park.

Stan Walczak, Ward 9 City Councilor, served as superintendent of the Department of Parks and Recreation for 19 years and offered a touch of historical perspective.

"Williams Park, when the renovations were done there, none of the area that you're talking about had any major work done in terms of Parks and Rec. work or drilling or anything like that," said Walczak. "It used to be used as a golf driving range and archery [range] for people to come to. The state also used that area quite a bit for access to the state park, especially by Lord Terrace Street. You may want to check on that as well."

Ward 6 City Council Derek Dobosz directed numerous questions to Botelho during the mayor's briefing. Chief among them was how the project will affect the park, which sits in his ward.

"At this point, there is no complete excavation," said Botelho. "They'll send a drilling rig out there and take samples to monitor what the ground water is doing. That's the biggest thing. I can't speak to what happens after that or how we handle the mediation. That's going to come once we have a better understanding of what this is and how big it is."

Dobosz was relieved to learn that there will be no immediate disruption. When the project was discussed during the council meeting, he assured his constituents that Williams Park is still accessible.

"There's no risk to the public. No area is going to be roped off; nothing's going to be dug up for now. This is to meet federal requirements. It's unfortunate that we have to spend this amount of money, but, hopefully the expense doesn't get too much higher from here," said Dobosz.

Warm Wishes From Our Family
to Yours at Thanksgiving
As we gather around with family and friends this holiday, we offer up thanks for the many blessings that make life meaningful. Gifts like friendship, love, health and prosperity make us especially grateful, and we hope you enjoy these same blessings in abundance at this special time of year and always.
We're so grateful to be a part of this wonderful community, and we thank you for your valued business. Happy Thanksgiving!
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COVID-19 testing spot changed at HCC

HOLYOKE – As of Friday, Nov. 6, the location of free drive-through COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has shifted to parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building.

The change is being made to prepare for the cold weather months, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Hours and days of operation will not change. Testing will continue at least through the end of December.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Previously, testing was conducted in parking lot M near the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

Drivers are now being asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, then turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

A map with the new traffic pattern and testing site location is posted on the Holyoke Board of Health website: https://www.holyoke.org/hcc-covid-testing-site-to-change/ .

The HCC testing site is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Information about closing due to inclement weather can be found on the Holyoke Board of Health website.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary.

Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the tate can be found at: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread

DOC implements modified operations at facilities statewide

MILFORD — As part of a concerted effort to protect the health and safety of inmates, patients, and staff, the Massachusetts Department of Correction is taking affirmative steps in a continuing effort to reduce the introduction, exposure, and transmission of COVID-19 at its facilities.

As of Nov. 16, the Department's 16 facilities will go into modified operations for a period of 14 days to allow the department to continue to provide a second round of universal COVID-19 testing for all inmates while also providing universal testing for staff. Inmates will still have access to medication distribution, sick calls, medical appointments, mental health contacts, showers, disinfecting of rooms, telephone use, and tier time.

General visitation will be temporarily suspended during this time; attorney visits and releases from custody will continue as scheduled. To promote and maintain connected relationships with families and loved ones while the pandemic necessarily limits visitation, the Department launched video visitation this summer and is in the process of expanding its video infrastructure to provide for virtual visitations at all facilities. The Department is also expanding inmate access to phone and email communication during this time.

The Department of Correction's COVID-19 Information Guide provides additional information that will help address many commonly-asked questions regarding the DOC's response to COVID-19 and the steps we have taken to help protect the health of those in our care. The latest information about COVID-19 in Massachusetts is available from the Department of Public Health.

Chicopee Comprehensive graduate Elisha Rudenko earns Dean's Award

HAMILTON, NY – Elisha Rudenko, a member of the Colgate University Class of 2021, has earned the spring 2020 Dean's Award with Distinction.

Rudenko is a Neuroscience major from Chicopee and is a graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

Students who receive a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher while completing at least three courses during the spring 2020 semester earn the Dean's Award with Distinction.

"Moms WWII Letters" Zoom presentation

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will offer the Zoom program "Moms WWII Letters" on Monday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.

In May 2017, Corinne Smith found her mother's stash of more than 80 letters from 16 servicemen she had corresponded with in 1944 – 1945. Corinne began to trace the soldiers' family trees with one goal in mind: to return the letters in person to their children.

This presentation links history and genealogy to present-day research and diligence. And it may prompt others to wonder for themselves what treasures lurk in their own old family boxes, and how they can share the information with others.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This Zoom link will be provided on RiverMills Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center to register and receive the Zoom link.

Christmas bazaar to-go at Sts. Constantine & Helen Church Nov. 28

CHICOPEE – On Saturday, Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church will be holding a Christmas bazaar to-go featuring Greek food, pastries and gifts.

The bazaar will be held on Nov. 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. outside the church, located at 30 Grattan St. There will be packaged, ready-to-go homemade Greek pastries, along with imported Greek olive oil, honey, wine and liquor and assorted gift baskets.

All benefits will help support the parish.

baby's first Christmas

Rayah Marie Bassett

October 21, 2020

Parents: Sarah Benoit and Zachary Bassett, South Hadley
Grandparents: Sharleen and Michael Roman, South Hadley
Gail and David Bassett, Ware

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Attn: Jamie Joslyn
Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: BABY'S FIRST. This offer is available to all babies born in 2020. Pictures will be published the week of December 21-25, 2020.

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Birthdate: _____

Parents' Names: _____

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Parents' Town of Residence: _____

Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

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- ❑ The Register
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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 4, 2020

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EDITORIAL

Small businesses need you more than ever now

At the end of the day, any business depends on a favorable bottom line. It's the number that ultimately decides if a business owner can keep that "open" sign on the door. But that doesn't means all business is transactional. That's especially true for small businesses.

Local businesses have always been a cornerstone of their communities. For them, it's not just about selling goods or services. It's about being a good neighbor. Supporting local causes. Lending expertise in schools and places of worship. Restaurants and cafes aren't just places to eat. It's where people bond, celebrate and collaborate.

Most people first experience the life-changing thrill of earning a wage for an honest day's work at a small shop.

And many future entrepreneurs started learning about how business works and finding their inspiration at those first jobs at a small, local business.

When there's a tragedy or a crisis, you can bet your bottom dollar local business owners are there helping any way they can.

That's why it's more important than ever to support them in their time of need.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, and small businesses have absorbed unprecedented challenges. "Small Business Saturday" may sound like a cute catch phrase, but the intent runs so much deeper.

While we hope everyone shops locally as often as possible, this Saturday is an opportunity to remind those local business owners how much you appreciate them. Many have just managed to hang on during the pandemic and any day you can help them exceed expectations provides the confidence they need to keep going.

A show of support is particularly important now. An expected next wave of coronavirus infections could again ripple through small business communities across the U.S.

It was reported in the New York Times on Sunday that "sluggish retail sales growth in October, rising claims for unemployment insurance last week and a multi-week decline in employment and hours worked at small businesses nationwide have increased the odds that the economy could tip back into recession."

Not that it's inevitable. If we all do our part by following the guidelines designed to stop the spread of infection, that's another way to support small businesses. A healthy community is a healthy customer base.

Across our pages, you'll see the names of our advertising partners and we urge you to give them your business. And there are so many others in your area. Not all of them have brick and mortar shops. Many small business, from artisans to professional service providers, are based locally and operating virtually. Please seek them all out. Ask your friends and neighbors for recommendations. Check social media.Help local restaurants keep going by buying gift cards or certificates from them as presents.

You all have a ton of civic and community pride. Supporting small businesses is another chance to show it and we hope you take every opportunity.

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GUEST COLUMN

It's time to shop for a gardener in your life

My kids have been busy making their Christmas wish lists. Over the years I have saved the "rough drafts." You know, the list that doesn't get sent to Santa. It's a walk down Memory Lane to look these over. Just the change in their handwriting is enough to make a Momma cry, never mind all the requests for baby dolls and princess this or that! Those days are over, sniffle, sniffle… but today's pastime got me thinking about my favorite gift recommendations for the gardener in your life. Let's start with tools!

Hands down, my favorite tool is the spade. It's similar to a short handled shovel with an ever so slightly tapered, yet straight rectangular blade. I have an antique spade with a worn wooden handle that belonged to my dad. I use it to "edge" shrub beds or other gardens to keep them distinct from the lawn. A spade is also great for dividing overgrown perennials. Simply use the blade to chop the plant into manageable pieces. It is likewise indispensable for moving or removing trees and shrubs, cutting through tough roots in no time flat.

If I had to name a runner up, it would be the scuffle hoe. Get your friend one of these and with 20 minutes of "aerobic exercise" three times a week, their garden will be weed free! A gentle back and forth action slices the weeds at the soil line without turning the soil over too much or bringing new seeds to light.

One tool that I couldn't live without come harvest time are my garden shears. They look very much like scissors with shorter blades. Useful as an all around pruner, this tool is surprisingly sharp, lightweight, and comfortable in your hands even after lots of work. I only wish they weren't black; I need to spray paint the handles neon orange so that I don't keep losing them amongst the plant material.

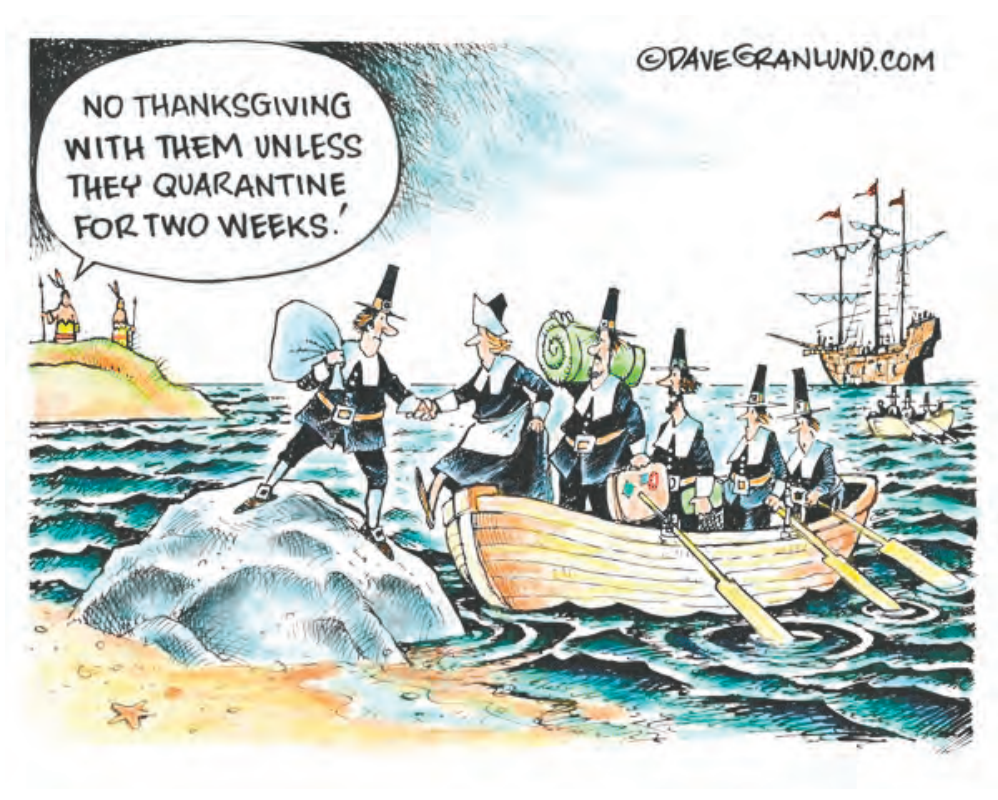
Once the weather breaks your favorite gardener can get a jump start on the growing season with a gift of IRT mulch. For crops such as pumpkins, melons, eggplant, peppers and other heat-lovers, it is an indispensable tool. Simply roll out the black plastic-like mulch two weeks before planting time to warm the soil. When ready to plant, simply cut and "X" into the mulch and position the seedling into the soil. Plants generally grow faster and will ripen sooner than those growing without the mulch. In addition, they suffer next to nil competition from weeds.

Even though it will be a while until we can get our hands into the soil again, many gardeners will start off the New Year with a seed catalog or two in hand. To be able to grow the great variety of tasty veggies and colorful flowers seen on the glossy pages of these pamphlets, we really must learn to start our own transplants from seed. Then, the sky is really the limit!

Without the right amount of light and warmth, however, indoor seed starting can be discouraging. Often times transplants end up so leggy that they collapse. Or, worse yet, seeds rot in the soil without ever even germinating. Spare your loved one the heartbreak and get them a heated mat and a shop light with fluorescent bulbs. The mat will provide warmth at the root zone to encourage speedy, even germination and the light, when positioned just inches above the growing seedlings, will promote sturdy, strong growth.

Search out local garden centers and nurseries for these and other innovative gardening implements for your friends and family this holiday season. Two mail order companies that carry the some of the products I mentioned include Johnny's Selected Seeds in Winslow, Maine (Johnnyseeds.com) and Fedco Seeds in Waterville Maine (fedcoseeds.com).

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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Picture that: Eric Carle Museum pivots for pandemic

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

AMHERST – The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst is a hidden gem amid the farmlands of western Massachusetts in Amherst, near Hadley. The institution displays more than 12,000 objects and illustrations split between multiple galleries, a studio and numerous libraries.

Named after famed 91-year-old illustrator and children's book author Eric Carle, creator of, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," the Carle museum preserves, presents and celebrates picture books and picture book illustrations from all over the world.

Not unlike other similar institutions, the Carle encountered an enormous obstacle in the shape of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the circumstances are not picturesque, the Amherst facility has pivoted in the face of adversity.

"Our staff has put a whole lot of time into thinking about the flow of the guest experience and making sure it's a positive one but also a safe one for everyone. Like most museums, it's required a lot of teamwork and communication and making sure we're following state guidelines and policies," Courtney Waring, director of education at the Carle.

The museum closed to the public in March at the onset of the pandemic and its doors remained closed until Aug. 1. Virtual programming and online galleries kept the Carle afloat for nearly five months.

"A lot of us found ourselves working from home, but previous to that, our team had already been doing virtual programs, working with virtual groups, doing livestream events for classrooms and doing virtual and professional development workshops. We continue to do that, and, of course, we're certainly seeing a higher demand for that now," said Waring.

During the pandemic, museum staffers have focused on building a robust social media following, the accounts of which have been frequently used to post collections of images and virtual access to galleries. Several exhibitions are available online in their entirety.

"We have two online exhibitions running right now that people can go to our website and see," said Waring. "One is called, 'Art in Place,' and is all about social distancing in the studio. It's been wonderful to hear from studio artists about what they've done during COVID."

The second exhibition is titled 'Now and Then' and was originally created inside of the museum prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. Due to its short running time, the team at the Carle elected to post it online.

As of Nov. 23, the museum remains open to the public on a part-time basis. The facility is open every Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Two intrigued patrons safely enjoy all that the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst has to offer.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART.

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst features a diverse collection of thousands of picture book illustrations.

The building will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Inside the facility, staff members are paying close attention to state guidelines and have implemented several safeguards to maximize safety.

The Carle suggests that patrons reserve a time slot prior to their arrival, although walk-in guests will be welcomed as long as space allows. The museum has reduced its capacity limits in accordance with Massachusetts guidelines.

Waring that observed many, but not all, of the Carle's regular patrons have returned to visit since the institution reopened in August.

"We do have museum members that we miss seeing. We've seen some of them back, but not all of them have returned. We're thinking about ways that we can still connect with them. Our museum shop has curbside pickup. If anyone would like to purchase something but not come into the building, we can arrange for curbside," said Waring.

"Also, our museum members, who maybe aren't ready to come back inside the museum and miss coming into the art studios, can contact us and arrange for an art project to-go bag, and that can also be picked up with our curbside service," she continued.

More information on the Carle can be found at carlemuseum.org.

A pair of excited patrons stand beside a life size picture of Eric Carle, the children's book author and illustrator for whom the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst is named after.

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COVID from page 1

established a task force to assist with the distribution of a vaccine, which is expected to reach western Massachusetts by year's end.

"[The state] is expecting 400,000 vaccines to be available by Dec. 31 and intends to distribute them to front phase medical responders and hospital staff first, first responders next and then to conjugate care," said Vieau on Nov. 23.

The state anticipates that the Pfizer vaccine will arrive in late December while the Moderna vaccine could be made available early next year.

"One thing I heard is that, simply, once you get your first vaccine, three weeks later, you automatically schedule your second dose. It's a two-part system," said Vieau on Monday afternoon.

Vieau noted that the state is prepared to deploy and distribute vaccines within 24 hours of their arrival in the Commonwealth. Chicopee's vaccine task force has already met twice and is readying itself for the vaccine's much-awaited arrival in the city.

"We've pulled out and dusted off our old vaccine protocol that we have in the Health Department. We will be meeting again, because the next four to six weeks are going to be critical on how we respond as a community," said Vieau on Nov. 23.

Dry ice will be used to store the vaccine at minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Chicopee will follow the lead of the state Department of Health and the Office of Gov. Charlie Baker, but Vieau disclosed that nurses and EMTs will likely be responsible for distributing vaccines.

In the meantime, COVID-19 will continue to alter the routines and impact the lives of Chicopee residents. As the holidays approach, Vieau asks residents to keep adapting rather than take unnecessary risks.

"I am advising Chicopee residents to limit the number of gathering attendees who go to your household," said Vieau on Nov. 17. "When more people attend your gathering, the greater the possibility that someone may be carrying that virus. I plead with the residents of our city: don't stop now. We've come this far. Let's finish strong."

Vieau pledged to remain home on Thanksgiving and Christmas and urges others to do the same. He asked residents to sacrifice this year in favor of remaining healthy and being able to celebrate with extended family members next year.

"It's nothing more than selfish for someone to go and visit with friends and have these large social gatherings because that puts a burden on our medical facilities here in western Mass.," said Vieau on Monday. "There's no backup. Back in March and early April, when the Northeast area was being targeted with COVID-19 cases, we had help from the rest of the country. Well, they're in just as much need as we are now."

Numerous city entities have been contributing greatly to the community's health and well-being. Vieau noted during his Mayor's Briefing that the Council on Aging serves approximately 300 seniors each day, five days a week, via its after-lunch curbside meal program.

Chicopee Public Schools is also working to ensure that all students are fed. The entirety of the district has returned to remote learning, and the need for meals has subsequently risen.

"We were fortunate enough to have been able to keep our schools open for nine weeks. We are going full remote, and with that comes food insecurity," said Vieau on Nov. 17. "We are providing meals. It's my understanding that Chicopee FRESH is supplying nearly 33,000 meals a week, which is just incredible. We're doing everything we can to make sure our residents and our students have food."

Each week day, the CPS remote meal service operates at schools spread throughout the district. Bowie Memorial School at 80 Dare Way and Chicopee High School at 820 Front St. offer breakfast Monday through Friday from 7 – 9 a.m.

From 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., lunch can be picked up at Barry Elementary School at 44 Connell St., Bellamy Middle School at 314 Pendleton Ave., Bowe Memorial School, Dupont Middle School at 650 Front St., Fairview Elementary School at 26 Memorial Ave., Lambert-Lavoie Elementary School at 99 Kendall St., Litwin Elementary School at 135 Litwin Ln., Strieber Elementary School at 40 Strieber Dr. and Stefanik Elementary School at 720 Meadow St.

Dinner is available from 4 – 6 p.m. at Chicopee High School and at Chicopee Comprehensive High School at 617 Montgomery St.

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HIGH SCHOOL

Winter season postponed till January

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In a bit of a switch from the normal decision-making processes filtering down, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference made a pre-emptive decision about the upcoming winter season.

In Western Massachusetts, there will be no winter sports action before Jan. 14. Practices cannot begin before Jan. 4.

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton, a member of the PVIAC Board of Directors, said he believes a similar decision will be made by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association in the coming weeks.

"We looked at a number of things as it related to this decision," said Stratton.

The top factor was learning from what schools and communities went through in the fall season.

"A number of towns and their schools had to go in front of their school committees and the respective boards of health," said Stratton. "And those boards only meet once or twice a month, so it took some times for towns to get the various approvals needed.'

Taking into account a full season will not be played, Stratton said delaying the season to January was the easiest step to take.

Just like the fall season, teams will play in geographic bubbles and will only be able to get about 10 to 12 games at the most played.

Taking into account the holiday breaks as well as the winter weather, the winter season is usually the longest, starting in early December and ending in mid-March.

Stratton said other factors played into making the decision even easier to make. He said the current spike in COVID-19 cases made it easier for the PVIAC to take a break. The break will keep more students at home and reduce exposure to the virus as the country prepares for possible distribution of a vaccine.

Stratton said the PVIAC expects the winter season to go from Jan. 14 to Feb. 21. He said one other proposal had the season going from Dec. 14 to Feb. 12, but said the point about towns needing time to get approvals prevailed.

Sports specific guidelines are scheduled to be made public soon, and local town boards and school committee members would have to review them and see if they want their schools to participate.

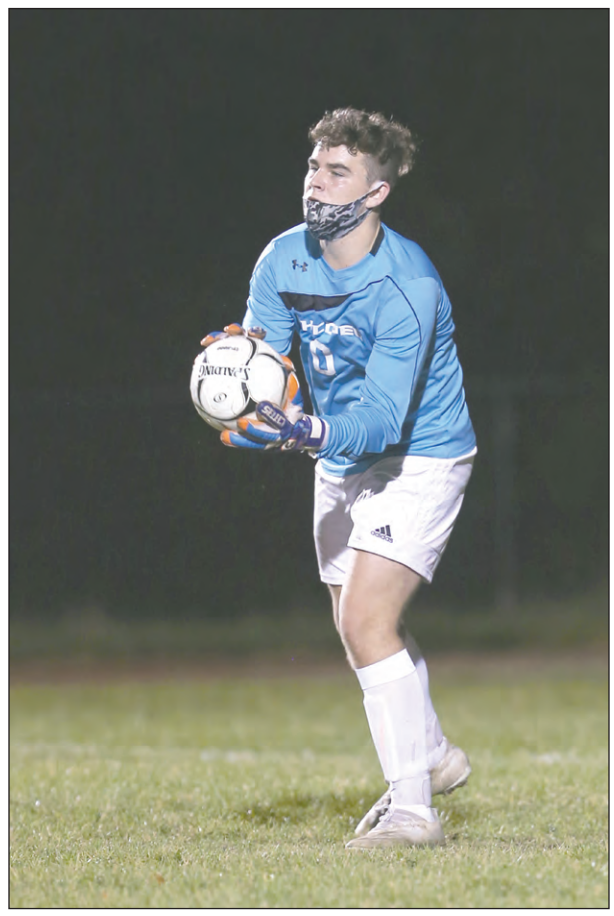
As of now, basketball and hockey are supposed to be played while wrestling will not be allowed to have any school-to-school competition.

Stratton said while news of a vaccine continues to circulate, the PVIAC and MIAA are continuing to prepare for seasons as if the pandemic is still in effect.

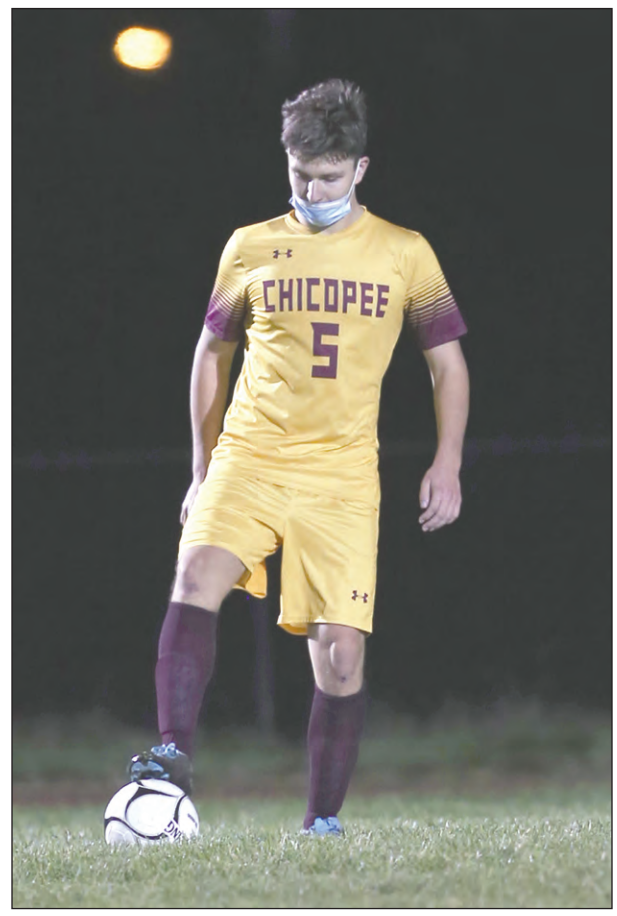
"We are preparing for the conditions that currently exist until we have information that would cause us to do otherwise," said Stratton.

The Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs issues the guidance high schools are using to play sports currently. The EEA was scheduled to release guidance for winter sports to be considered by the various subcommittees of the MIAA Board of Directors. Stratton, who is on the Sports Medicine Committee, said votes on the guidelines are ongoing.

Stratton said the PVIAC will re-evaluate the bubble leagues schools will play in. They were geographically-based, but the number of schools participating in the winter season could change. He also said with a limited number of ice hockey teams, those bubble leagues will look much different.



Goalie Aiden Berube picks up the ball for a save.



Mateusz Gorzak positions the ball before taking a free kick

Pacers fall in second matchup with Lions

Dominik Rodrigo plays the ball off his body.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Ethan Langevin goes after the ball for the Pacers.

LUDLOW – Earlier this month, Chicopee High School boys soccer concluded its abbreviated season with a 1-0 loss at Ludlow High School. Chicopee and Ludlow have developed a rivalry in recently years. While Ludlow has come out with more wins, the margin of victory has been very small with very close games between the two squads.

Indoor track could move to bubble season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Could indoor track become outdoor track this year?

Indoor track coaches around the region are looking at the possibility of that if a different solution is not found to hold indoor track when the winter season starts in January.

Indoor track facilities are few and far between in West-

See **TRACK** page 8

FILE PHOTOS

Indoor track is usually held at Smith College in Northampton, but that facility is unavailable this winter due to the pandemic.

Pioneers begin road to return

Several hopefuls dribble the ball around.

Coach Federico Molinari briefs the players on how tryouts will work.

Noah Dunn, of Wilbraham, works out for Pioneers coaches.

Darren Zaldivar, of Ludlow, focuses during the tryout.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

The tryout starts with some stretching.

LUDLOW – The Western United Pioneers have had a long-standing tradition of great spring and summer soccer throughout the years, only to have that tradition, like many others, stopped by COVID-19. With a vaccine on the horizon and hope for a regular 2021 season, the Pioneers hosted tryouts for their Senior League team. Several male competitors came out Saturday, Nov. 14 to try and make the team. Players from all over the Western Mass. region made their way to the tryout. Younger players tried out for the youth Pioneers teams throughout last week.

Pioneers join USL Academy League

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Pioneers have been endorsed as one of the founding members of the USL Academy League's Northeast Division. The Academy League season is due to kick off in late spring 2021 and will provide clubs in all three of the USL's senior divisions with an elite youth development and competition platform. As such, the clubs can now develop a more clearly defined path for the top youth prospects in their area to reach the professional and collegiate levels.

The Western Mass. Pioneers are the defending Northeast Conference Champions of USL League Two. The team will begin its 22nd season of play this coming spring – having won a National Championship in 1999. Over the years, several Pioneers' players have gone on to the professional ranks; including Thomas McNamara of the New England Revolution and most recently Guzman Diaz of Club Deportivo Maldonado (Uruguay).

"This is a great opportunity for us to start preparing for the USL team in years to come and for players to compete with and against USL players in the future," stated Pioneers Head Coach Federico Molinari.

The structure of the USL Academy League provides the Pioneers a progressive model to develop local players for their Senior Team, at a fraction of the cost of traditional pre-professional academies. Teams participating in the Academy League will field one elite youth team, made up of the top U15-U19 prospects in their area. Each team will limit the number of U18/19 players and will require a minimum number of U16/U17 players and encourage the clubs to integrate the top U15 players when developmentally appropriate.

"Whether a player is looking for a professional opportunity or a successful college career, the USL Academy League provides the perfect platform to bring together the top youth players in the area. The league is designed to supplement a player's current program and with no age restrictions this will allow the best players in the area to develop and compete at the highest level," added General Manager Joe Ferrara.

For more information on the Academy League and for tryout details contact Joe Ferrara at jferrara@wmpioneers.com or 413-330-9775.

More than 50 clubs across 25 states comprise the wide geographic footprint of the USL Academy League. The league will be divided into seven regions: Northeast, Atlantic, Southeast, Florida, East Central, South Central and Southwest. The 12 clubs set to compete in the Northeast Division of the USL Academy League and the territories in which they will compete in are as follows:

• Black Rock FC: Lake Placid, NY (USL League Two)

• Boston Bolts: Boston, MA (USL League Two)

• Cedar Stars Academy: South Hackensack, NJ (USL League Two)

• FA Euro New York: New York, NY (USL League Two)

• Hartford Athletic: Hartford, CT (USL Championship)

• Ironbound SC: Newark, NJ (Part of the New York Red Bulls' player pathway)

• Long Island Rough Riders: Long Island, NY (USL League Two)

• Morris Elite: Madison, NJ (USL League Two)

• Queensboro FC: New York, NY (USL Championship)

• Seacoast United: Portsmouth, NH (USL League Two)

• Westchester Flames: Westchester, NY (USL League Two)

• Western Mass Pioneers: Ludlow, MA (USL League Two)

The launch of the USL Academy League will help all USL clubs identify top prospects, and provide more players with the opportunity to compete against professionals at a younger age. The 2020 USL Championship season has shown that young players on USL Academy contracts can break through to their local Senior Teams. Players like Orange County SC's Aaron Cervantes and Francis Jacobs, San Antonio FC's Jose Gallegos, Austin Bold FC's Beto Avila,

Birmingham Legion FC's Jaden Servania, Sacramento Republic FC's Hayden Sargis, Indy Eleven's Josh Penn and Phoenix Rising FC's Ansu Kanneh, among others, demonstrate the benefits of an established youth development pathway at USL clubs.

FILE PHOTOS

Hurdles are another event that is part of the indoor track season. Indoor track could move outdoors in the bubble season in late February.

TRACK from page 7

ern Massachusetts.

The teams in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference have typically used Smith College over the past several years.

Several teams would each participate in one of two meets on Friday evenings. There would be a meet at 3:45 p.m. and a second meet at 6:45 p.m. Schools would be counted with certain schools matching up their results individually.

Smith College, like many college campuses, are not open for high schools to use for track meets. Springfield College, which has indoor track facilities, is also not available due to the pandemic.

With the Fall 2 or bubble season set to happen in February, coaches are discussing the idea of doing indoor track at the various artificial turf facilities available throughout the region.

"If the weather cooperates, we would be able to hold meets outside and would not have to rent a place like Smith College," said Agawam High School track coach Dan Pryce. "We would have to modify a few of the events, but it would work really well."

During indoor track, the running events including the 55 meter, 300 meter, 600 meter, and 1000 meter runs. The one mile and two miles are events done in both the indoor and outdoor seasons, as well as the long jump, high jump, and shot put. The outdoor season has 100, 200, 400, and 800 meter races in comparison.

Pryce said while there is nothing official, there is a lot of good feedback among the indoor track coaches in the region to move indoor track to the bubble season so competitors can take part in the sports.

There is potential competition in the sport if it moves to the bubble season. Football is currently scheduled to be the main sport during the bubble season, set to go from Feb. 22 to mid-April. Because football is normally a fall sport and indoor track a winter sport, some students may have to choose one sport over the other if they are normally involved in both. Cheerleading is also currently supposed to be part of the Fall 2 season.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage polices, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (C) (4) for the purpose of serving beer and wine at restaurant – an eating and drinking place with the consumption of alcohol located at 17 White Birch Plaza. Applicant – Emiray, Inc., dba Pizza Palace, Onur Onder, 17 White Birch Plaza, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

***COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the December 16, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by December 14, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
11/27, 12/05/2020

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Special Permit application under Chapter 275-50C and 275-9 for the purpose of installation of an accessory sign within 35 ft setback within an Industrial Garden Planned Unit Development, type 1 zone located at 27 Lonczak Drive. Applicant – University of Massachusetts, Amherst c/o Facilities & Campus Services, Gaetan Blais, 360 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9248.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

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11/27, 12/05/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20A0081AD
In the matter of:
Jayliah Marie Aponte-Dearborn
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6

To: Wilfredo Jose Aponte
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Megan Marie Rodriguez of Chicopee, MA

Eric Rodriguez of Chicopee, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Jayliah Marie Rodriguez

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Springfield** on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: **12/22/2020**.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 10, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/20, 11/27, 12/04/2020

Notice of Sale
Gen Laws c.255, Sec. 39A

ChucksTowing, 78 West St., Chicopee, MA is holding a private sale **November 30, 2020 at 2 P.M.** to satisfy garage keepers lien for storage and towing charges and expenses notice of sale.

08 Honda Oddyssey Black
Vin:5FNRL38798B010878
Owner: UNKNOWN
Date of Tow 2-27-20

07 Ford Edge Orange
Vin:2FMDK46C77BB48610
Owner:UNKNOWN
Date of Tow 6-25-20

11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2020

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
19 SM 004919
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Heirs, Devisees or Legal Representatives of the Estate of Genevieve A. Taylor, Debra Burns, Nancy Provost, Lori Buzzard, Scott Taylor, Heirs, Devisees or Legal Representative of the Estate of George A. Taylor, Jr., Jennifer Taylor, Jeremy Taylor and Graham S. Taylor

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 *et seq.*:

Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Chicopee, numbered 54 Alfred Street**, given by George A. Taylor and Genevieve A. Taylor to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, dated June 22, 2006, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16007, Page 423, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the **active** military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property **on that basis**, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **12/21/2020** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of this Court on 11/9/2020

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
11/27/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **December 4, 2020** at Interstate Towing, Inc. the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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Blandford, Ma 01008

2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer
VIN: 1GNDT13S222194198
Ramone Molina
435 Lincoln St
Lowell, Ma 01852

2002 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMZU73K32UD58024
Elvin Fidel Morales Ramirez
67 Northampton Ave
Springfield, Ma 01109

2003 Volkswagen Gti
VIN: 9BWDE61J434041490
Anthony Arbuzov
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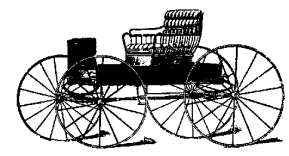

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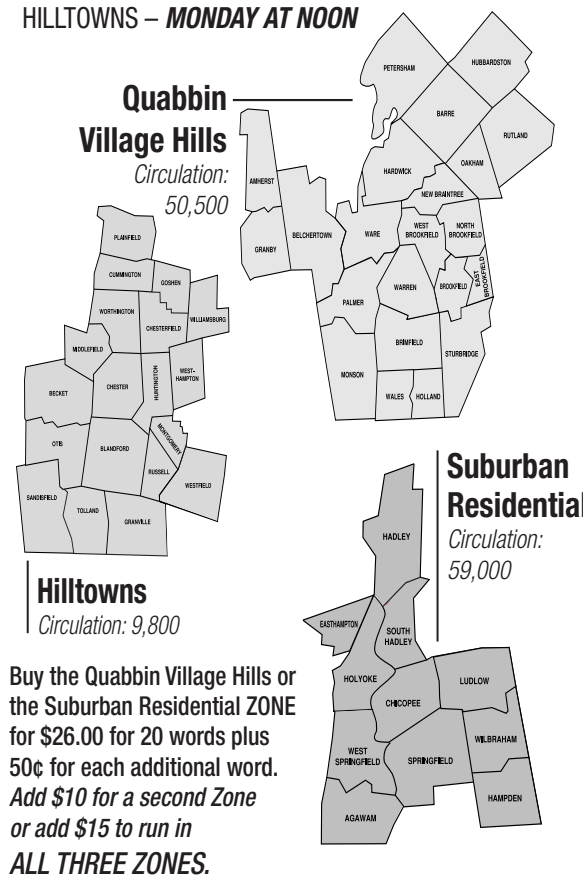

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BUSINESS from page 1

ing sure those tax dollars stay in my community and eventually come back to support me by [being put toward] building infrastructure, roads and meaningful spaces in the place we I live," said Copoulos.

On Nov. 25, Mayor John Vieau held a press conference, reading a proclamation that urged residents to partake in Small Business Saturday shopping. The conference was held after this issue of the Chicopee Register went to press.

Copoulos expressed great appreciation for Vieau, who has prioritized the well-being of small businesses in the City of Chicopee since he was sworn in to his position in January.

"John Vieau has made it very clear since the first day he stepped into office that small businesses and the business climate in Chicopee are something he wants to support by doing anything he can," said Copoulos.

Small Business Saturday was first launched by American Express ten years ago in an effort to support local businesses throughout the country. According to American Express, American consumers spent nearly $20 billion at independent stores and restaurants on Small Business Saturday in 2019.

If local businesses taste even a small portion of that success this year, it will be a welcome boost. Copoulos is optimistic that local businesses will profit on Small Business Saturday but said she also sees the bigger picture.

"It will be a celebration, for sure, but I also think, realistically, that we're not out of the woods yet. I think we're looking at a potential second shutdown. I think it's really important to say to our consumers that, 'You should really prioritize this year more than ever,'" said Copoulos.

For the first time, the Puerto Rican flag now flies in front of City Hall in Chicopee.

HERITAGE from page 1

State Rep. for the 9th Hampden District, was joined by fellow Springfield City Councilor Adam Gomez, who will enter the State Senate in January.

"As much as I love and respect the city of Chicopee, no offense, but I'd much rather be in Puerto Rico right now instead of this cold weather," Ramos joked on a brisk afternoon.

Ramos spoke about the flag prohibition that was observed from 1948 until 1957, which was established to suppress an independence movement in Puerto Rico.

He also recalled the widespread defiance that ultimately led to the law's abolishment. Ramos dedicated Monday's event to the generations of stateside Puerto Ricans whose courage and pride ultimately prevailed.

"The Puerto Rican flag has always been a symbol of resiliency," he said. "History teaches us that our people defied that prohibition, and for their efforts, they were arrested and spit on and tortured, but it was because of their defiance that we are standing here today and are able to display this beautiful flag."

Gomez, a former Chicopee resident and current Chicopee business owner, noted that the 2010 U.S. census tallied approximately 17,000 city residents of Puerto Rican descent. He expects that number to grow when the results of this year's decennial census are published.

[L to R] A mix of local and state officials and public figures partook in a Puerto Rican flag raising in downtown Chicopee on Nov. 23.

Lydia Freytes and Damián Moreno display Puerto Rican artwork on Monday afternoon as part of a larger celebration of Puerto Rican heritage.

Mayor John Vieau presents a Chicopee mask to soon-to-be state officials Orlando Ramos and Adam Gomez on Nov. 23 during a celebration of Puerto Rican heritage.

As the Puerto Rican flag took to the skies in front of City Hall, Gomez basked in the moment, acknowledging that the occurrence was a long time coming.

"I'm really amazed that this day is happening and I'm really thankful for it. [Puerto Ricans] have been part of the DNA of Chicopee for a very long time. Chicopee is home to a lot of folks who left other places and created opportunities in all parts of the city. You see it every day," said Gomez.

Orlando Ramos will soon be sworn in as State Rep. for the 9th Hampden District. He celebrated his Puerto Rican roots in front of Chicopee City Hall on Nov. 23.

Adam Gomez earned the position of State Senator but has not forgotten his Puerto Rican roots.

Johnny Miranda, Chairman of the Chicopee Cultural Council, emigrated from Puerto Rico long before he became a Chicopee business owner and public figure. Years have come and gone, but Miranda's love for his homeland has not faded.

During his monthly meeting with Vieau, Miranda floated the idea of celebrating Puerto Rican Heritage Month, and Vieau offered his encouragement. With the flag now flying in the center of Chicopee, Miranda said he feels at peace.

"It certainly makes us feel visible and recognized in a city that we've made our home in," said Miranda. "Just listening to the music right now and being able to look up at the flag, when I was hearing the anthem, it brings memories and nostalgia. We are a diaspora. We're living here and we've made this our home, but our hearts stay in Puerto Rico. It's definitely humbling and emotional."

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